

I am a long-time cyclist and bicycle commuter living in Durham, NC. I was very disturbed by recent broadcasts on G105, a Clear Channel station, that advocated violence against bicycles. While radio personalities do have some first amendment rights, like everyone else, they are and should be subject to a higher standard because they utilize a public commodity, the airwaves, to express their views. Clear Channel has shown a repeated violation of the trust citizens place in such organizations by supporting on-air personalities in several markets that have advocated violence against cyclists.

If more people rode bicycles to work or school, rather than automobiles, we as a society could go a long way toward solving several current ills, including:

- international entanglements related to procuring oil
- global warming resulting from so much burning of fossil fuels
- local traffic backups and related wastes of productivity
- air pollution and the attendant health risks.

Even the current epidemic of obesity in our country could be addressed in part by a cultural shift in our thinking about transportation.

There are people out there making the choice to use their bicycles instead of their cars for all of these reasons. It is a long and difficult road, even without any interference from drivers. But when our government and its agencies give the use of a public commodity to those who advocate violence against us, we are forced to choose between doing what is right and doing what is safe.

Personally, I drive my car now more often than I'd like - to a large extent, this is because I feel threatened on my 5 mile ride to work. I am threatened because drivers have the idea, encouraged by folks such as Bob and Madison on G105, that I have no right to be there; that they are justified in their anger; and that they can perpetrate illegal acts of violence against me from the anonymity of their 2000 pound weapons with the tacit commendation from our culture.

As the government body entrusted to regulate the public commodity of our airwaves, the FCC should not also condone such views by allowing Clear Channel to go unpunished for their repeated attacks on cyclists. I urge you to reject the renewal of their license for G105, or to act in some other way that will hit them in the pocketbook. Anything short of action from the FCC sends the message out loud and clear to our nation that a culture of violence against a particular group of citizens is just fine with the U.S. Government.

Sincerely,

Michael Wolosin